

devoted even to the purpose of administering justice."

It is specifically declared by law, that "no person shall be arrested unless for crime on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday." Here is not only a positive recognition of the first day of the week, as the Sabbath, but a direct command to a public officer not to discharge a duty on that day; the neglect of which, on any other day of the week, (except the fourth day of July) would render him highly culpable. It is also declared by law, that "common labor" is forbidden on the first day of the week; and by the same act, tavern keepers, and other persons, who shall sell or barter spirituous liquors, (an employment which is lawful on any other day when a license has been granted) on that day, are subject to punishment. The time prescribed by law for giving notice when a deposition is to be taken, excludes the Sabbath, thereby showing that the Legislature were not unmindful of the sacred character of that day. All of these enactments, have been our statute book since the organization of the State Government (now more than forty years) in some form or other, and it is believed some of them were enacted during the Territorial Government; nor is it known that any efforts have been made, by any portion of our people, to obtain a repeal of them; hence it is fair to presume they contain a clear and decided expression of the public will upon this important subject. If these statutes, or any of them, constitute a "monument of folly" as alleged by the chairman of this committee, it is somewhat extraordinary that neither the people, nor the Legislature have not heretofore discovered it, and resorted to the means in their power to prostrate "those monuments" of so long standing; it seems however to have been the peculiar province of the honorable chairman to discover this evidence of "the folly" not only of an intelligent people, but of their representatives. Having shown that it is in accordance with the repeatedly expressed will of the people, that the first day of the week should not be devoted to ordinary secular purposes, the question becomes quite pertinent—why is it, that the "State Officers" employed on our canals, should be required to "transact official business" on that day? The undersigned is compelled to declare, that while the Legislature will not attend to its ordinary functions on that day, and the courts are by law prohibited from being held on the Sabbath, and sheriffs and certain other public officers are forbidden to desecrate that day by attending to their official business, he cannot present any satisfactory reason for requiring the officers engaged on the public works of the State to do that, which in other similar cases is by law and usage prohibited; this singular anomaly in our laws the undersigned, therefore, leave to others more skillful in explaining incongruities, to unravel. But it is insisted by the chairman, that "such a law as is requested by the petitioners, could not be enforced," because "a free people ever jealous of their rights, the true and lawful owners of the public works, will never submit to legislation of this kind." The undersigned believes that, in arriving at this conclusion, the honorable chairman has done manifest injustice to the people of this State—and there is no warrant for such a decision. We have seen that the people have most cheerfully submitted to similar legislation touching all other officers. Besides, among the petitions referred to the committee, is one signed by more than one hundred and thirty of the forwarding and commission business men, residents of the different towns on the Ohio Canal, from Cleveland to Columbus, and upon the Hocking canal from Carroll to Athens. These gentlemen must be presumed to understand their own interests as well as the interests of the public at large, whose agents they generally are so far as relates to the navigation on these public works. With these facts before him, it seems to the undersigned that he must be a bold man, and acting too, in his "individual capacity," who takes the responsibility of asserting that such a law as is now asked for, could not be enforced. Further, the worthy chairman refers to, and adopts "to the fullest extent," a sentiment of the Sabbath Convention lately held in this city, that the "providence of God clearly shows that a day of rest is necessary to the physical welfare of man;" and yet he urges, that because that convention in its "associated capacity" disclaimed any "attempt to preserve the Sabbath by the enforcement of law," it would "be bad policy to grant the prayer of the petitioners." When it is borne in mind, that this convention, as appears by its published proceedings, and as many of this General Assembly know from their own observation, was composed of young men and pioneer fathers, and farmers and mechanics, and physicians and lawyers, and judges and ministers of the gospel, and church members of various denominations, and patriots of the different political creeds, to the number of more than three hundred, assembled from almost every county of the State, to consult together and adopt measures for the preservation of the Sabbath, and that this convention proclaimed, not only the sentiments above adopted by the chairman, but this other, that "the interests of commerce, and all the channels through which it flows, throughout our country, do not forbid, but require the faithful and universal observance of the Sabbath;" and also this other, that "the observance of the Christian Sabbath is in no sense injurious to the civil and political arrangements of our country, but on the contrary would greatly promote the public welfare in every respect." It is the part of wisdom to regard the opinions put forth by such a body of men, as no slight or ordinary evidence of the public will; but on the contrary, as testimony upon the subject we are discussing, which should present itself to the mind of legislators, having the public welfare in charge, with irresistible power. By what method of reasoning it can be maintained, that because this convention thus voluntarily assembled, under no requirement of law, did not "in its associated capacity" undertake to "enforce by law" a day of rest to the Sabbath, this Legislature should therefore refuse to listen to the request of several hundred respectable citizens who have constitutional rights to approach this body, the undersigned does not pretend to comprehend; hence that portion of the report of the honorable chairman is left for the explanation of others more learned in logic of that kind. Time will not permit the undersigned to present all the facts and arguments, which in his view of the subject, most incontrovertibly show, that the public welfare requires that the prayer of these petitioners ought to be granted; he can only add, that in his judgment, it would be no difficult task to prove to the satisfaction of any candid, unprejudiced mind, the following facts:

- 1st. That a great majority of the merchants, manufacturers, and traders, desire that the navigation upon our canals should be closed on the Sabbath.
- 2d. That a like majority of the owners of boats thereon, wish the same thing.
- 3d. The boatmen solicit it.
- 4th. A great proportion of the people residing in towns and villages on the canals, are anxious to be relieved from the tumult and confusion incident to the passage of boats through their towns on that day.
- 5th. The present system shortens the lives and depraves the morals of those employed in navigation.
- 6th. In proportion as the privileges of the Sabbath have been restored to the boatmen, their morals have improved.
- 7th. Laboring six days in a week is more profitable than seven.

The undersigned has abstained from urging the claims of the Sabbath, as resting upon the commands of God, not from a want of due reverence to this high authority, or to these commands as given in the holy scriptures, but for the reason that the Bible is in the hands of all, and the injunction "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," is so plain that he who runs may read.

Having arrived at the conclusion, that the request of the petitioners is reasonable and proper, and if granted, will greatly tend to the improvement of the condition of our people throughout the State, the undersigned asks leave to present a bill in accordance with the prayer of the petitioners.

A. VAN VORHES.

#### A BILL,

To promote the better observance of the Sabbath.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That it shall not be the duty of any collector of tolls, the lock tender, or other agent or officer of this State, employed upon the canals or slackwater navigation of this State, to perform any labor or transact any official business, on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding; and no such collector of tolls, lock tender, or agent or officer, shall be removed from his office or agency, for refusing to labor or transact official business on the day aforesaid.

NEWSPAPERS.—Traveling one day in the country we fell in company with a man whom we soon ascertained to be a well-to-do man in the world farmer. In the course of conversation upon various subjects, principally agricultural, we found that he was just returning from our town, where he had that day contracted for the sale of 500 bushels of wheat at 75 cents per bushel. From this our conversation passed to that of newspapers, and upon ascertaining that he was not a subscriber to any paper we offered him ours. But the man had "so many ways for his money" he could not afford it. We then asked him, if he would become a subscriber in case we would convince him that if he had taken the paper, he would have saved in one bargain alone, five times the cost of it for a year. He agreed to this, and we took from our pocket one of our latest papers in which was an advertisement, offering to contract for any quantity of wheat at 81 cents per bushel. Thus we illustrated to our farmer friend, that if he had been a reader of our paper he might have saved 6 cents on each of his 500 bushels of wheat, making a total of \$30—sufficient to pay for the paper for 15 years. He paid us two dollars and left us, growing at himself for having been so negligent of his true interest.—*Erie (Pa.) Observer.*

The Bank of Kentucky has declared a dividend of two per cent.

## THE TIMES.

For President.

Henry Clay,  
Of Kentucky.

Senatorial Electors

THOMAS CORWIN, of Warren;  
PETER HITCHCOCK, of Geauga;

Dist. Congressional Electors.

1—BELLAMY STORER, of Hamilton;  
2—WILLIAM BERR, of Butler;  
3—AARON HARLAN, of Greene;  
4—SAMUEL MASON, of Clark;  
5—DAVID J. COREY, of Henry;  
6—JOSIAH SCOTT, of Crawford;  
7—READER W. CLARKE, of Clermont;  
8—NELSON BARRETT, of Adams;  
9—JOSEPH OLDS, of Pickaway;  
10—DANIEL S. NORTON, of Knox;  
11—WASH. W. CONKLIN, of Marion;  
12—SAMUEL R. HOLCOMB, of Gallia;  
13—HARLOW CHAPIN, of Washington;  
14—JOHN CROOKS, of Guernsey;  
15—SAMUEL W. BOSTWICK, of Harrison;  
16—WILLIAM R. SAPP, of Holmes;  
17—JOHN W. GILL, of Jefferson;  
18—CYRUS SPINK, of Wayne;  
19—JACOB H. BALDWIN, of Trumbull;  
20—WILLIAM L. PERKINS, of Lake;  
21—JOHN FULLER, of Erie.

POMEROY:

Wednesday, February 14th, 1844.

#### POSTAGE.

There is great interest manifested in the east on the subject of Postage, and to the necessity of a simultaneous action on this subject throughout the country. All agree in the necessity of a reduction in postage. The present rate is too high and inconvenient; and a lower rate, payments in the federal currency, is demanded by a proper regard to the greatest good of the people.

The plan recommended by the New York meeting, as shown by their proceedings, is to reduce the franking privilege, and establish a uniform postage of five cents in advance, on each letter weighing not more than half an ounce, and five cents on every half ounce additional, for all distances.

On newspapers and periodicals the New York Memorial favors the adoption of a uniform postage of one half cent on every newspaper, periodical, or printed sheet conveyed by mail when paid in advance, and double that sum when not paid in advance. To do this (the payment of newspaper postage in advance) would require an entire change in the present system of publishing.

The postage on papers should not be less than one cent when conveyed out of the State where published, and an additional cent on all sheets over a certain size, and then our mails would not be weighed down by mammoth sheets, novels, and the like.

Newspapers should not be charged with postage, within the counties in which they are published. Every country paper should insist upon this reform. We find it difficult enough now to live, owing to the competition of eastern printers;—and if newspapers brought 500 or 600 miles, should pay only as much postage as one brought 10 or 15, the country press would be compelled to stop. If the west would give that patronage they now extend to eastern journals to their own papers, it would enable the country press to issue larger, neater and abler sheets. The Pittsburgh Gazette in remarking on this subject, says:—"The preservation of the morals and liberties of the country depends on the healthy existence of a local press, scattered all over the country, through the length and breadth of the land. The schemes of the New Yorkers will tend to break down the local press, by the competition of the city publishers, with their superior advantages, and the result will be to this country what Paris is to France, the heart of the nation, and its pulsations will be felt in every part. How long will the liberties and morals of the country be preserved in such a state of affairs?"

Mr. Merrick has introduced into the senate of the United States a Postage Reform Bill of which the following is an outline:

1. Each single letter carried less than 100 miles, 5 cents.  
Each letter over 100 miles, 10 cents.
2. Each newspaper within its own county, free.  
Out of the county and under 100 miles one half cent.  
Over 100 miles, one cent.
3. If over 44 by 30 inches, with all pamphlets and other printed matter, 24 cents per ounce.

"No franking but by Heads of Departments. Members of Congress to have a certain number of stamps."

We hope this bill of Mr. Merrick will soon be enacted into a law. It contains the reformation asked for by the people.

An exchange paper has the following: "If Gen. Harrison in 1840 received a majority of 145,000 of the popular vote over Martin Van Buren, how much of a popular vote will Mr. Clay receive over him in 1844? Answer, 245,000."

The locomotives are much tickled on account of Mr. Spangler's resignation.—Just keep your \*\*\*\*\* on, gentlemen, and make yourselves as easy as you can. We will give you a *Joe Darter* under the fifth rib next fall that will make you quite sick for at least four years to come.

The Portsmouth Tribune speaking of the address of the 8th of January Democratic Convention, says it is an ocean of words, truly; but not enough, drop by drop, to wash out any one of the deep stains which locofocoism has porpretrated upon our otherwise fair escutcheon.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE WHIG COUNTY CONVENTION.

In pursuance of a call for a county convention agreeably to the request of the State Central Committee, the Whigs of Meigs county met at the Court-house in Pomeroy on the 9th instant at 11 o'clock, A. M.

On motion, Hon. Thomas Irvin was chosen President of the Convention, and J. Cartwright, Secretary. The object of the meeting having been explained to be the choice of delegates to the Whig State Convention, to be held in the city of Columbus on the 22d instant, it was on motion, Resolved, that the Convention proceed immediately to the selection of delegates. Whereupon the following gentlemen were chosen:

Hon. Thomas Irvin of Salisbury, Stephen Titus of Rutland, Josiah Branch, 2d, of Chester, William Longstreth of Salem, James M. Gilmore of Sutton, Jeremiah F. Brown of Orange, Henry L. Osborn of Olive, Simon F. Seely of Lebanon, Joshua Woods of Columbia, John N. Allen of Bedford, Spencer H. Hayman of Letart, Columbia Downing of Scipio.

On motion, Resolved, That the delegates from this county be requested to employ their influence with the nominees of the State Convention, to induce him to abstain from stump speaking through the ensuing campaign.

On motion, Resolved, that this convention entertain a preference for DAVID FISHER of Clermont county, as the whig candidate for Governor, over the other gentlemen who have been named as candidates for nomination by the convention to be held on the ensuing 22d.

On motion, Resolved that a Whig County Convention be held on the 15th day of March next, at the Court-house in Pomeroy.

On motion, Resolved, That the proceedings of this Convention be published in the Meigs County Times.

THOMAS IRVIN, President.

J. CARTWRIGHT, Secretary.

#### Retrenchment.

It is said that Mr. Disney's report on the House project of Retrenchment concurs with the House with most of their propositions, differing radically only upon the amendment relating to the State Printer. Now if this be so, we hope the Whigs may at once concur with the Senate, and pass the Bill as far as they can agree, and not lose the whole bill while contending for the clause reducing the emoluments of the State Printer. If the rest of the bill is in *passable* shape, pass it. Then the Whigs can insist upon going into the elections, free from any imputation of design to place the officers to be elected beyond the reach of the bill to reduce their salaries. This done, they can place the reduction of the fees and emoluments of the State Printer, on its own hook, and leave upon the Senate the responsibility of defeating it. If the proposition be right the people will sustain those who supported it, if not, not. By passing the bill, as far as it regards the members and general officers, all pretext is taken away for refusing to go into the elections. By refusing to pass it, a pretext is afforded the Locofocos for rejecting the bill altogether—and also for refusing to go into an election to fill the vacant offices. We would put our opponents in the wrong, and if we cannot ourselves do all the good we wish; would do all we can. Obstinacy, on either side, which prevents relief to the people, will be condemned by the people.—*Cin. Gaz.*

#### A New Tax Bill.

A bill is now before the Senate amending the tax laws, and enlarging the number of articles subject to taxation. Among the new subjects of taxation, we notice the following:

Watches valued at \$20, or upwards.  
Piano Fortes, gold and silver ware of \$25 or upwards.  
Household Furniture, \$400 or upwards.  
Ships, brigs, schooners and sloops, \$200 or upwards.  
Stage Coaches, and other passenger carriages.

Stock in breweries, tanneries and distilleries of \$200 and over.  
Stock employed in lumber business.  
The Stock of booksellers, druggists, confectioners, merchant tailors.

Stock in vending hats, boots, shoes, harness, saddlery or furniture, manufactured out of the State, or in the penitentiary of the State.

The Bill has gone through Committee of the Whole, in Senate. The correspondent of the Lebanon Star writes:

"Mr. Perkins moved to tax all horses and sheep over six in number owned by citizens of this state. This raised the *bristles* of the Miami, Scioto, Central and Muskingum tribes. Amongst the bleating of sheep, the grunting of swine, and the howling of cattle brought in by way of illustration, the question was taken and lost by a decisive vote."

Correspondence of the Zanesville Gazette.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, January 22, 1844.  
The subject of districting the State appears to be one of great perplexity, and the joint select committee of five Senators and ten members of the House, are at the work almost every night trying to accomplish the task of mixing oil and water, that is, of agreeing upon a bill which will please both whigs and democrats.

I have been enabled to procure a copy of the bill, which it is said the whigs go for with some slight modifications, and was promised a copy of the bill, which the democrats contend, but could not get it in time for this letter. Of the bill first named and which was drawn up by Mr. White, of Licking, I send you a copy, as it was first proposed. What alterations, if any, have been made, I know not. It districts the State as follows:

Hamilton co., 1 Senator and 4 Representatives.

Clermont and Brown, 1 Senator and 2 Representatives.

Butler, 1 Senator and 1 Representative.

Warren, Clinton and Green, 1 Senator and 3 Representatives.

Montgomery, 1 Senator and 1 Representative.

Adams, Highland and Fayette, 1 Senator and 2 Representatives.

Scioto and Lawrence, 1 Representative, and Gallia and Meigs, 1 Representative and the 4 counties 1 Senator.

Ross, Pike and Jackson, 1 Senator and 2 Representatives.

Preble Darke and Mercer, 1 Senator and 2 Representatives.

Miami, 1 Representative, Shelby and Allen, 1 Representative; and the three counties 1 Senator.

Clarke, Campaign and Logan, 1 Senator and 2 Representatives.

Pickaway, Franklin and Madison, 3 Representatives and 1 Senator.

Delaware and Union, 1 Representative and 1 Senator.

Marion and Hardin, 1 Representative and Crawford, Hancock and Putnam, 2 Representatives, and the 5 counties 1 Senator.

Lucas, Henry, Williams, Paulding and Van Wert, 1 Representative and 1 Senator.

Wood, Ottawa and Sandusky, 1 Representative, and Seneca 1 Representative, and the 4 counties 1 Senator.

Erie, Huron and Lorain, 3 Representatives and 1 Senator.

Richland, 2 Representatives and 1 Senator.

Knox, 1 Representative and 1 Senator.

Cuyahoga and Medina, 3 Representatives and 1 Senator.

Gauga, Lake and Astabula, 3 Representatives and 1 Senator.

Trumbull, Portage and Summit, 4 Representatives and 2 Senators.

Columbiana and Carroll, 3 Representatives and 1 Senator.

Stark, 1 Senator and 1 Representative.

Wayne and Holmes, 3 Representatives and 1 Senator.

Jefferson and Harrison, 2 Representatives and 1 Senator.

Tuscarawas and Coshcton, 2 Representatives and 1 Senator.

Belmont, 1 Senator and 1 Representative.

Guernsey, 1 Representative, and Monroe 1 Representative, and the 2 counties 1 Senator.

Muskingum and Licking, 3 Representatives and 1 Senator.

Morgan and Washington, 2 Representatives and 1 Senator.

Perry and Athens, 2 Representatives and 1 Senator.

Fairfield and Hocking, 2 Representatives and 1 Senator.

The democrats charge the whigs with an intention of not districting the State at all, and many of them will oppose going into an election at all, until this question is settled. Others again, and in this all of that party in the Senate appear to be united, are in favor of no elections until the Retrenchment bill is either passed or rejected. So much for Legislation. Z.

#### Virginia too.

The New York Republican contains an extract from a letter written by one of the best informed men in Virginia, himself a Locofoco, which says:—"Virginia herself, [if Van Buren be the candidate] will go for Clay beyond all doubt. Already has Ritchie and his selfish adherents, neutralized more votes than would be necessary to defeat Van Buren. We only carried the State in 1840, by a mere majority \* \* \* I know many who then voted for Van Buren who will vote for Clay; and still more who will not vote at all.—To my mind, there is nothing in the future more certain than the election of Mr. Clay, if Van Buren be the candidate in opposition."

WONDER WILL NEVER CEASE.—SOUTH CAROLINA.—The New York Express has the following extract from a letter of a respectable gentleman in Charleston South Carolina:

CHARLESTON, Jan. 10, 1844.

"John C. Calhoun's two nephews have joined our Clay Club; also Langdon Chiles Judge Butler, and many other friends of John C. Calhoun; and if this State finds that HENRY CLAY needs her vote to elect him, she will get it—if not she will throw it away."